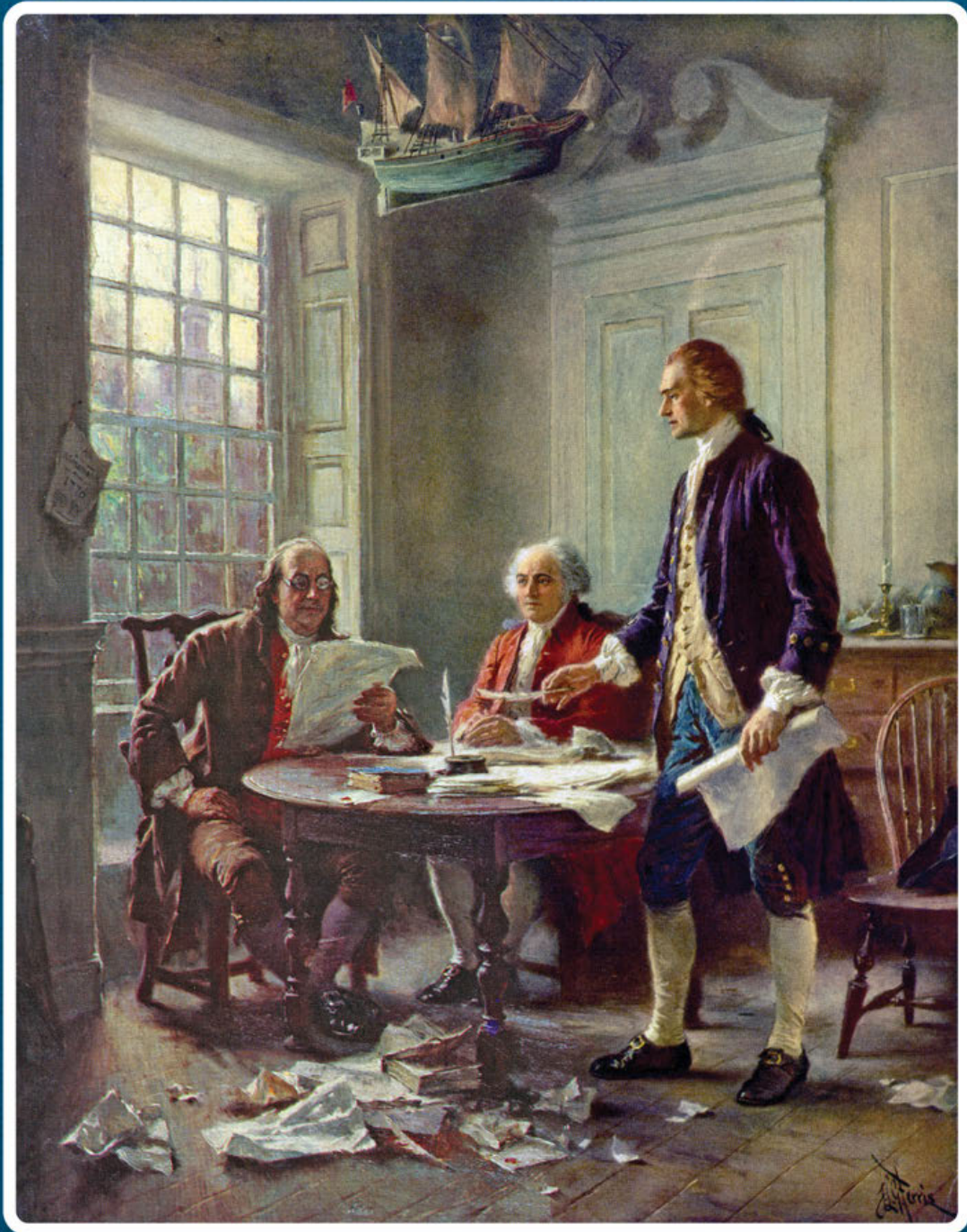


AMERICA FORGE OF FREEDOM

Volume One: To 1865



SETON PRESS

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Columbus certainly was not the first to “discover” America, but his discovery was the most significant and long lasting. In this painting the artist, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, depicts the moment in 1492 when Columbus comes ashore at San Salvador and claims the New World for the King and Queen of Spain. Note the censor on the carpet in front of Columbus. For Columbus his voyage was not merely a secular enterprise, but also a religious one.

Introduction: This Blessed Land

America is a nation on which God bestowed a rich abundance of blessings. The story of America is a story of people from many lands who came and shared their blessings with those who were not so blessed. Those who flocked to America were usually poor. They came seeking a better life for themselves and their families. They braved hardship and danger for the chance for a life of freedom and opportunity. They were willing to work hard for their dreams. They were willing to carve a nation out of a wilderness. In time, they built the greatest nation the world has ever seen. In time, this nation sent its young men and women back across the ocean to defeat the great threats of Nazism and Communism. This small nation that once clung to the shores of the Atlantic had become something greater than itself. It had become a true forge of freedom.

The Wanderers, the Visitors, and the Colonizers

Three groups of very distinctive people discovered, explored, and colonized what would one day become the United States. The first group to arrive on the North American continent, Native Americans, might be termed the Wanderers. These first Americans migrated to North America from Asia and wandered around North and South America following the animal herds, especially the buffalo. The second group to visit North America was the Vikings. Since, they stayed only briefly, they were visitors not really colonizers. Finally, the Europeans, led by the Spanish, arrived in 1492. They stayed. They colonized. They would come into conflict with the Native Americans already here.

The First Americans: The Wanderers and the Great Migration

For many years, anthropologists have believed that the first humans to arrive in what is now North America almost surely crossed over the Bering Strait from Siberia in Eastern Asia to northwestern North America (modern-day Alaska). Anthropologists believe that at one time a strip of land connected



Map showing possible migration from Asia across the Bering Strait down into North and then South America

the two continents. Once in North America, the newcomers migrated south, most likely following the animal herds and the grasslands. Several thousand years passed before these migrants made their way to the southernmost part of South America.

Native American Life and Culture

As the migrants from Asia continued spreading south across North and South America, they began to develop their own societies and cultures. The Merriam Webster dictionary defines a “society” as “a voluntary association of individuals for common ends.” Native Americans voluntarily associated into, or formed, “tribes” in order to survive the harsh environment of pre-historic times. Moreover, people need the companionship of other people. Merriam Webster defines “culture” as “the set of shared attitudes, values, goals, and practices that characterizes an institution or organization.” In other words,

culture means the values and goals that the people in a society share and which influence their thinking and behavior. Culture influences art and literature, religion and morality, and laws and judicial systems. Ultimately, the culture will define the society and exert a great influence on the people who live in that society. For example, a culture which values human life will work harder to protect it than a culture which places less value on life.

For Native American tribes their environment had the greatest impact on their lives and culture. The environment determined what they ate and how they dressed. It determined whether they were farmers who lived in villages or hunters who lived in temporary shelters and constantly roamed.

Tribes of the Pacific Northwest and the Great Basin

The Pacific Northwest is an area blessed with abundant rainfall and wildlife. The Native American tribes who settled along the inviting and lush Pacific Coast were blessed not only with plentiful game animals, but also with abundant species of fish that were found in the ocean and the fish-rich streams. These tribes tended to be hunter-gatherers, who hunted for wild game and fish and gathered wild fruits and berries from the forest. In the Pacific Northwest, the most easily caught fish were salmon. Soon after salmon hatch, they head downstream to the Pacific Ocean. Years later, as they reach maturity and are ready to spawn, they return to the same locations in their “home rivers.” Of course, on their return they swimming upstream rather than down.

One of the most well-known tribes to live in the Pacific Northwest were the Nez Perce. They also were hunter-gatherers famous for developing a special breed of spotted horses called *appaloosas*.

In the region between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, known as the Great Basin, tribes like the Ute and the Shoshone made their homes. These smaller tribes tended to be more nomadic. However, unlike the rain-soaked Northwest, the Great Basin is mostly desert. These hunter-gatherers migrated to find food and game. Due to the rather inhospitable conditions, they were among some of the last tribes to encounter Europeans.

Tribes of the Southwest

Five major tribes inhabited Southwestern America: the Hopi, Pueblo, Zuni, Apache, and Navajo. Although these five tribes lived in the same geographic area, the Hopi, Pueblo, and Zuni were quite culturally different than the Apache and Navajo.

The Hopi, Pueblo, and Zuni tribes were all peaceful farmers. In fact, linguists translate the word “hopi” to mean “peaceful (or) peaceable person.” “Pueblo” comes from the Spanish word for “town.” The Spaniards probably named this tribe Pueblo for the distinct style of building which they created out of *abode* (sun baked bricks). These permanent structures provided excellent homes for the natives who lived in them. However, archeologists believe that thousands of years before the Spanish arrived, these tribes lived in settlements built into the sides of mountains. For this reason, they are sometimes known as “Cliff Dwellers.” Living high on a mountain cliff offered natural protection from enemies who would have had a difficult time climbing the cliff walls. Archeologists think that at the end of the 13th century the cliff dwellers abandoned their mountain dwelling and began living in pueblos. Because the southwest is dry with little rainfall, the native farmers developed a system of irrigation. They mainly grew corn, but also grew squash, fruits, and beans. These tribes also became famous for their beautiful pottery and baskets recognizable by their zigzag designs.

Unlike their peaceful farmer neighbors, the Apache and the Navajo tended to be more nomadic as well as more warlike. They frequently went south into Mexico to raid other tribes for wives, horses, and treasure. The Apache were particularly fierce fighters and good tacticians. Even their enemies admired their bravery. The Apaches first fought the Spanish explorers and then the United States’ army. In fact, they were the last band of Native Americans to surrender to the United States.

Tribes of the Great Plains

In the middle of North America lies the area known as the Great Plains, the grasslands between the Rocky Mountains and the Mississippi River. More than thirty tribes lived on the sprawling Great Plains.

Major tribes included the Comanche, Kiowa, Arapaho, Pawnee, Cheyenne, and Crow as well as several branches of the Sioux tribe such as the Teton and Oglala. Because there were so many tribes, they tended to behave somewhat differently. However, for the most part, the tribes of the plains tended to embrace a warrior culture which involved raiding their neighbors/enemies for food, women, and horses. The Plains tribes also tended to be nomadic, following the buffalo herds. Although with so many different tribes, that was not always the case. For example, some of the Pawnee proved to be excellent farmers.

Perhaps never in history has one group of people been so dependent on a particular animal as the Plains tribes on the buffalo. In fact, the existence of a particular tribe could depend on the success of a single hunt. The buffalo provided these early Americans with food, clothing, shelter, and even heat for their homes. They ate the buffalo meat for its protein and used its hide for their clothing and blankets. The hide also provided a sturdy and waterproof external covering for their teepees as well as a ground covering for the inside of the teepee. The natives used the buffalo's bones and horns for tools and cooking implements. Moreover, even the buffalo's droppings, so-called "buffalo chips," were burned for fuel to heat teepees. Thus, Native Americans used every piece of the buffalo, even some pieces the buffalo left behind. Because these Native Americans depended so totally on the buffalo, the migration patterns of the buffalo herds affected their own migration, their "wanderings," as they pursued the great herds.

At one point, there may have been over thirty million buffalo roaming the North American continent. Buffalo, more accurately referred to as American bison, are the largest land mammals native to North America. Full-grown bulls are majestic creatures standing six feet tall at the shoulder and weighing nearly 2,000 pounds. Despite this massive bulk, buffalo are agile and can run as fast as most horses. Sharp horns and deadly hooves made them worthy adversaries for the men who hunted them.

Movies often depict Native American hunters on horseback, racing along the outer fringes of thundering buffalo herds, often felling one of the giant beasts with one well-placed arrow. Actually, hunting buffalo was a quiet enterprise. A stealthy hunter, often camouflaged under a buffalo robe, armed with a short bow and a sharp arrow, would sneak up on a hapless, grazing animal. Native Americans hunted buffalo in this quiet manner for many centuries.

Although the first horses probably migrated from Asia as many as 10,000 years ago, archaeologists believe that most of the horses disappeared from the Americas for several thousand years. European expeditions brought horses over from Europe, but often lost some or intentionally left behind the weak ones. When the Plains tribes captured and tamed wild horses, they had more mobility to hunt buffalo and to make war on their enemies. To the Plains tribes, war was merely a risky sport, which allowed young men to display their courage, and afforded them an opportunity to seize their enemies' possessions, particularly their horses.

Horses added to a warrior's prestige and were often used to pay a father for his daughter's hand in marriage.

The government of the Plains tribes reflected that which many of the Native American tribes in North America favored. For the most part, it lacked a strict structure. Generally, a chief, one of the older and wiser men, led the tribe. He consulted with a council of elders. However, in general, the chief and the elders did not act as a governing body, but rather as respected advisors. When an important decision needed to be



To many Americans, no animal better symbolizes the ruggedness of the American spirit and the West than the American bison. The National Park Service estimates that in 1500 over thirty million bison roamed throughout North America.



The Strait of Magellan

CHAPTER 1 REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions:

1. How did the Crusades cause the commercial Revolution?
2. How did the Crusades lead to the discovery of America?
3. How did their environments effect the type of lives Native Americans lived?
4. What European is credited with discovering America before Columbus?
5. Why didn't Europeans follow up the discovery of America in 1000?
6. What two navigation devices made sea travel safer beyond the sight of land?
7. Why is Prince Henry the Navigator important?
8. Who was the first sea captain to reach the southern tip of Africa?
9. Who was the first sea captain to sail around Africa to India? Why was this voyage so important?
10. Why was only Queen Isabella of Spain willing to give Christopher Columbus money for his expedition?
11. Why did Columbus sail in 1492 rather than earlier?
12. How many voyages did Columbus make to the New World?
13. Where did Columbus first make landfall in the New World?
14. Why are the continents of the New World not called "Columbia?" rather than "America?"
15. Which of the three discoveries of America was the least important and why? Which was the most important and why?
16. What did Balboa's expedition prove?
17. What did Magellan's expedition prove?

Identify the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Leif Ericson | 5. Hispaniola |
| 2. Vasco Balboa | 6. Crusades |
| 3. Ferdinand Magellan | 7. Amerigo Vespucci |
| 4. Marco Polo | |



Painting of George Washington leading soldiers during the Battle of Monongahela.

Clash of Empires

B By 1700, England, France, and Spain all had established strong claims to land in North America and viable colonies. France held land in the north and the west by virtue of the explorations of Champlain, Marquette, Joliet, and La Salle. England held strong claims on the Atlantic coastland between Newfoundland and Florida by virtue of its thriving colonies. Spain's claims, other than Florida, were located in the western and southwestern sections of North America. Spanish explorers had claimed vast sections of North America for the Spanish crown.

Although Spain played a role in the west and southwest, by 1700, France and England stood ready to battle for control of the eastern parts of America. Over the next sixty years, these two powerful nations would determine the future of what would become the United States. On one side stood England, a strong Protestant nation. A nation with an English tradition would certainly be Protestant. On the other hand, France, known as the *Eldest Daughter of the Church*, continued to send missionaries like Isaac Jogues to America. A nation with a French heritage would certainly be Catholic. If, one day, that new nation grew into the world's mightiest super-power, the effect of this determination would be incalculable.

Louis XIV Seeks Power

In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France. During his nearly 73-year reign, France fought a series of wars aimed at making France Europe's most powerful nation. While most of Louis' wars were fought in Europe, because the home, or **mother**, country set policy for its colonies, many conflicts occurred in the New World. His principal colonial interest lay in the development of Canada upon which he spent vast sums. To entice families to immigrate to French settlements in Canada, Louis appointed a royal governor and an army officer who commanded a regiment of seasoned French troops who would guard French interests in the New World as well as protect French settlers.

Conflict between the French and English

From 1689 until 1763, France and England fought a series of wars in Europe, which were also waged in America. France and England fought these wars to gain land, power, and money in North America. Each nation's leader wished to establish a great colonial empire that would control commerce, wield immense power, and exert the greatest influence in the whole world. The victor would decide the future of the American colonies.

By the mid-1750s, the prolonged competition between the French and the English had become increasingly hostile. Each nation claimed the huge land mass between the Appalachian Mountains in the east and the Mississippi River to the west. To strengthen her claim, England established new settlements west of the Appalachian Mountains, the beautiful mountain range running from southern Canada for about 2000 miles south to present-day Georgia. The French countered by building trading posts and forts on land that England claimed.

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The French were very friendly with the Native Americans. French trappers from Quebec, known as *coureurs de bois* (runners of the woods), often married native women, raised families, and became leading members of the wife's tribe. The French traded with the local tribes for beaver pelts and luxurious furs that men and women in Europe craved. In return, the trappers offered eye-catching trinkets, thick woolen blankets, silver-trimmed tomahawks and knives, smoothbore muskets, gunpowder, and lead shot. Many devout Catholic Frenchmen did their best to convert the Native Americans.

Sadly, some unscrupulous traders thought only of themselves. Instead of giving the Native Americans goods of value, they traded a highly-addictive, dangerous whiskey alcohol containing tobacco and red peppers. These traders realized that their liquor trade would last only as long as they could keep white settlers away from fur-rich trapping areas and keep missionaries from telling the natives not to drink the vile alcohol. To protect their business, the whiskey traders incited local tribes to attack the wagon trains of new settlers and the established settlements along the western frontier.



King Louis XIV



Map showing the claims of the English, French, and Spanish to North America in 1750. In fact, the English colonies claimed all the land between the Atlantic and the Pacific as their charters granted them the land from “sea to sea.”

Unfortunately for the French, they failed to overcome their greatest disadvantage in the New World: the English outnumbered them by more than twenty to one! Inevitably, the all-consuming rivalry between these two great powers led to armed conflict. War between the French and English in Europe sounded the tocsins of war between the French and English in America.

Wars Between the French and the English

King William’s War settled nothing during its eight-year duration (1689-1697). The principal issue was France’s effort to seize the Hudson Valley. France failed because the tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy stymied the French with their continued and capable resistance on behalf of their English allies. No territory changed hands.

Queen Anne’s War (1702-1713), called the *War of Spanish Succession* in Europe, involved military action confined mainly to small-scale raids against British settlers along the colonial frontier by the French and their Native American allies. The best-remembered raid occurred in 1704 at Deerfield, Massachusetts. A British naval squadron sailed up the St. Lawrence River in an attempt to force Quebec to surrender. The British withdrew when they discovered that their ships’ cannon could not be elevated high enough to hurl cannonballs over the towering sheer cliffs that protected Quebec.

In 1710, Francis Nicholson, the British colonial administrator for North America, commanded an expedition that conquered the French town of Port Royal in Nova Scotia. French pirates had been using

the area as a base for attacks on British merchant ships. Pirates had destroyed thirty-five English vessels, mostly those exiting Boston Harbor with American colonial goods.

The war ended in 1713. In Canada, the French lost two important commercial areas: the colonies of Acadia and Newfoundland.

King George's War erupted in 1744. Four thousand armed settlers from New England, in concert with a squadron of British ships, besieged the French fort at Louisbourg in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on present-day Cape Breton Island. After six long, miserable weeks of sporadic fighting and bombardment, the French finally surrendered. Many members of the British Parliament opposed returning Louisbourg to the French as part of any peace agreement. Eventually, they were overruled and England returned Louisbourg to France over the objections of the victorious colonists. However, nothing had really been resolved. French and English claims to territory in America still remained in conflict.

The French and Indian War: The Prelude

England's rapid westward expansion in North America alarmed the French. Unwilling to welcome competitor nations into any part of America, England claimed all of the territory between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. France responded that French exploration and settlements along the St. Lawrence and Mississippi Rivers gave France a legitimate claim to much of these same lands.

When the first English pioneers began moving into the disputed territory, they discovered that the French had built a line of forts between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. The French erected forts at Niagara Falls, Detroit, Vincennes (Indiana), and Kaskaskia (Illinois). Farther south, the fort at New Orleans guarded the mouth of the Mississippi River and the French fortifications at St. Louis defended the central section of the Louisiana Territory.



The Siege of Louisbourg

and funerals since there was no priest to perform them. In places with two or three Catholic families, they met to pray together, but there was rarely a priest to say Mass. Catholics gathered to say the rosary and sing hymns. The lack of priests, Catholic schools, and catechetical instruction prevented most Catholics from learning much about their faith.

Of the original thirteen colonies, Pennsylvania can be most proud of its treatment of Catholics. Since its founding, Pennsylvania had permitted religious liberty. Many Catholics, who could not settle in Maryland, found new lives in Pennsylvania, attracted to a colony which allowed them to practice their Faith. A Catholic chapel was built in Philadelphia in 1686 and Mass was openly celebrated there in late 1707 or early 1708. The development of the Faith in Philadelphia really began in 1730, when Jesuit **Father Joseph Grealon** became the first resident missionary in the city. In the years that followed, Irish and German immigrants increased the number of Catholics in Philadelphia.

Catholics in the Illinois Territory

Jesuit priest and explorer Jacques Marquette founded Immaculate Conception Mission in 1673 in the Illinois territory. In 1700, Father Groovier moved this mission to Kaskaskia, a settlement in Illinois country near the junction of the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers. Father Groovier spent more than two decades converting local natives, until a native eventually martyred him. Kaskaskia later became a seat of government for the French.

At the conclusion of the French and Indian War, the English gained control of Kaskaskia. It remained in English hands until the War for Independence. When the English took control of Kaskaskia, they



Main altar of St. Joseph's Catholic church, the oldest Catholic church in Philadelphia

drove out the Jesuits. The English turned the college, which the Jesuits had started in 1721, into a fort. However, conversions to the Catholic Church continued. Father Pierre Gibault served as a missionary in the vast area that included Kaskaskia, Detroit, and Vincennes. Father Gibault accompanied the American forces that fought the British in the Northwest Territory during the American War for Independence.

Louisiana

Jean Baptist Le Moyne de Bienville founded the city of New Orleans in 1718. Bienville was born in Montreal in 1680. Bienville attended a seminary school, but at age twelve, he joined the French navy. He was involved in several naval battles against the British. After recovering from wounds received in battle, Bienville helped establish a French settlement in Louisiana. He quickly learned some of the Native American languages, which proved a great benefit as he continued to explore the Louisiana territory. Eventually, he was appointed governor of the French colony.

In 1721, the Capuchins built the first chapel in Louisiana. A hurricane destroyed it, but it was later rebuilt on the site of the present cathedral. The Cathedral of St. Louis, King of France in New Orleans is the oldest Catholic cathedral that has been in continuous operation. New Orleans soon became the center of Catholic activity. New Orleans is home to one of the oldest religious structures in the United States, a school the Ursuline nuns founded in 1727. The Ursuline Academy is the oldest Catholic school, and the oldest continuously operating Catholic school for girls in the United States.

Antonio Margil: Missionary to Texas

In 1629, Spanish Franciscans came north from Mexico on missionary journeys. They accomplished a great deal in present-day New Mexico, Texas, and California. They built many churches and schools. Eventually, Dominicans, Jesuits, Capuchins, and Augustinians also served in the same area, but the Church owes its successful establishment to the Spanish Franciscans. They worked to convert and improve the lives of the local tribes. They taught the natives how to farm, how to make tools, how to read, and how to live the Catholic Faith. They introduced livestock and crops of every available kind, and showed them how to make and use farming equipment. Frequently the missionaries clashed with the Spanish military over its mistreatment of the Native American population. The Franciscans constructed their mission buildings



Cathedral of St. Louis, King of France

so well that most still stand today, despite earthquakes and other natural disasters. Through all their work, the missionaries considerably raised the indigenous people's standard of living.

Of the many missionaries to this region, Father Antonio Margil ranks among the most famous. As a young Franciscan priest, he worked as a missionary in central America. Many natives heard him preach and converted to the Catholic faith. He inspired a great devotion in them. Father Margil did not start his missionary work in Texas until he reached sixty years of age. From 1716 until 1726, he labored untiringly among Native Americans in present-day Texas. Lack of financial help made his task even more difficult. Nevertheless, he founded several missions, including, in 1720, one of the most important in San Antonio, the mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo. Father Margil died in 1726. In 1836, Pope Gregory XVI declared him Venerable.

America's Greatest Missionary: The Apostle of California

Although many great and holy missionaries came to America, one missionary stands apart. His accomplishments outshine all the others.

Though small in stature, this great missionary achieved incredible results. His name was St. Junipero Serra.

A Franciscan priest, Father Junipero Serra established the first mission in present-day California in 1769. This mission, which he named San Diego, was the first of nine missions that he established, running along California's coast up to San Francisco. These missions were like little towns where priests taught the Native Americans farming, the Faith, and reading. After Father Serra's death, Franciscan missionaries established more missions. Franciscans founded the last mission, San Francisco Solano, in 1823. In 1931, the state of California honored Father Serra's contribution to its history by placing his statue in the Statuary Hall in the Capitol Building in Washington, D. C. He also earned the nickname the Apostle of California.

God blessed Father Serra with incredible energy. He walked thousands of miles despite a limp from a constant infection in his leg. He baptized and confirmed over 6,000 Native Americans. He translated a catechism into one of the native languages. He wrote numerous letters and kept a diary, so all the details of life in the missions are well-known. Father Serra died in 1784 at the Mission of San Carlos, where he is buried.

After Father Serra's death, priests carried on his work in the face of ever-increasing opposition from the Mexican government. Mexican government officials opposed to the Church, or perhaps envious of



Statue of Antonio Margil



Statue of Father Kino

CHAPTER 4 REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions.

1. Where did French King Louis XIV seek power in the Americas?
2. What disadvantage did the French have in dealing with the English in colonial America?
3. In the King George's War, the British conquered which French fortress, which was ultimately returned to the French?
4. When was the French and Indian War fought? What was this war called in Europe?
5. Why did the French have little chance of winning the French and Indian War? Why did they succeed in the beginning of the War?
6. Who was the French general who was killed in the battle for Quebec? Who was the English general?
7. What was the name of the treaty signed by England, France, & Spain that ended the French and Indian War? What were the results of the Treaty?
8. Who were Catholic people driven out of Canada because of their Faith?
9. Who was the famous Jesuit priest and explorer who founded a Catholic mission in Illinois in 1673?
10. Who founded New Orleans?
11. What is the name of the oldest Catholic cathedral in the United States?
12. What Franciscan priest was famous for serving as a missionary in the region of Texas?
13. Who was the priest who founded nine missions in California?

Identify the following:

1. Eusebio Kino
2. Juan de Padilla
3. Robert Dinwiddie
4. Edward Braddock
5. Thomas Dongan



St. Louis Cathedral, New Orleans, Louisiana



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